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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktika Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Paktika from January 2002 - December 2010: \$68.8 million

Estimated population: 387,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Sharan

Note: U.S.-led PRT



The remote, arid province of Paktika shares a long, unsecure border with Pakistan and is one of the country's most remote provinces. Paktika's Pashto-speaking populations consist mainly of Ghilzai and Kurlani tribal communities, and the province lacks basic infrastructure. The high desert landscape has been deforested over time, and subsistence farming and animal husbandry continue to be the main forms of livelihood. In addition, Paktika's 400-mile border with Pakistan is a porous conduit for Taliban activity, which has hindered regional stability and many development efforts.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved irrigation, agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, and training.

Current Activities:

- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Provide regular technical assistance to orchard beneficiaries in order to enhance their capacity for orchard management

Accomplishments:

- Trained para-veterinarians and established nine veterinary field units
- Rehabilitated two canals and two dams to provide a reliable water supply to farmers
- Facilitated the integration of water resource management into the rehabilitation of upper watersheds and natural resource management activities
- Established 14 hectares of orchards
- Registered 35 farmers with 14ha of land for orchard establishment
- Provided seven training sessions to strengthen commercial agricultural opportunities
- Distributed seed and fertilizer to local farmers
- Contributed to the development of a rangeland law



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- Established 406 hectares of new orchards and provided training on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques for 1,194 farmers

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality of public services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID supports the justice sector, media, and civil-society in Paktika Province.

Current Activities:

- Support one radio station in Paktika
- Train provincial and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Support the Radio Pakhton Ghag station in Sharan, Paktika with program funding and technical support as part of a national network of local radio stations that broadcast independent national satellite programming from Salam Watandar
- Support the Afghan Civil Society Forum as an intermediate civil-society support organization which will organize community dialogues, run resource centers, monitor grantees, and provide capacity building to target civil-society organizations
- Embed technical advisors in provincial line departments, who provide on-the-job training to civil servants to increase service delivery
- Provide capacity building, training, and small grants to eight Afghan civil-society organizations showing potential to be sustainable, effective organizations in the province
- Train Provincial Council Members on the council's legal rights, monitoring, and oversight, and getting them to communicate better with their constituents and represent them with government entities
- Provide \$25,000/month through the Performance Based Governors Fund for governors to cover operational expenditures and implement community outreach projects
- Strengthening Sharana municipality through training and technical assistance by embedded technical advisors, youth support, trash collection, technical support in establishing Strategic Municipal Action Plan, digitized base mapping and implementing small-scale municipal infrastructure projects

Accomplishments:

- Supported the development of the justice sector through the publication and distribution of judicial reference laws
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the Afghanistan Court Administration System
- Provided core, skills, and ethics training for judges
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness training, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, and provided institutional, capacity-building training to civil-society organizations
- Supported the 2010 voter registration update exercise; assisted domestic and international observation missions; trained political parties and candidate poll agents; conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the 2010 election; and provided civic-education and media outreach activities for broad-based participation to promote the democratically elected government



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- Provided training and support to provincial councils, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic-education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and Sharia scholars
- Created a series of radio outreach programs including a radio roundtable series between Members of Parliament and citizens in the province
- Supported voter registration, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys, and supported the 2009 presidential and provincial council elections
- Provided a grant to the Afghan Women's Educational Center to carry out self-sufficiency and advocacy training for women in the province to promote gender equality

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Promote a thriving, legal economy led by the private sector.

Summary: USAID promotes economic development in Paktika Province through supporting small and medium enterprises and expanding access to telecommunications.

Current Activities:

- Promote economic related information and data collection activities in Paktika province to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Support the revenue reconciliation team of the Paktika Mustofiat, centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Support the Minister of Finance's (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to Paktika provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates
- Promote improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

Accomplishments:

- Installed five District Communications Network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, Internet, and photocopying services to both the district government officials and the public
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private sectors)
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Paktika Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated MoF Financial Management System
- Held a provincial budgeting capacity building workshop and trained 27 Paktika officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs that better reflect local needs and priorities
- Trained customs staff received training on customs legislation, valuation, tariffs, and procedures for monitoring the Pakistan border to build a professional, modern customs authority



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- Installed solar lights in three markets to increase marketplace safety and extend business hours
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed more than \$72,100 in medium-sized loans through USAID-funded financial institutions

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Paktika Province through national education programs. USAID provides radio-based teacher support programs, textbook support, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Constructed six schools
- Printed 563,483 textbooks

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Paktika come through support for the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS), including technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-government organizations, pre-service and refresher training for community midwives and community health workers, and the provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- Support 27 health facilities to implement the BPHS and EPHS
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through 21 private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in three sentinel sites
- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Urgon District, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Support full implementation of tuberculosis activities including initial and refresher trainings on the treatment of tuberculosis, upgrading lab facilities, strengthening lab microscopy, and introducing or scaling-up community based initiatives such as community awareness of tuberculosis and treatment of tuberculosis by community health workers



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- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Establish a provincial quality assurance committee to ensure that all healthcare providers are properly trained and performing professional care
- Launch a community-based midwifery training program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Construct a 20 bed hospital in Khair Kot District to provide improved healthcare to residents of the province
- Provide training on reproductive health and family planning to enable religious leaders to provide accurate information to communities
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians
- Fund province-wide Community Health Worker pre-service and refresher training

Accomplishments:

- Trained 14,900 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare in the province
- Established two model tuberculosis learning centers for health providers
- Procured and distributed high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives valued at \$967,000
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure to create legal economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program in Paktika Province focuses on the construction of transportation, building, and water facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the local economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Upgrade a major portion of the road from Yahya Khel to Khayer Kot to improve access to economic opportunities and social services for the villagers
- Maintain the Ghazni to Sharan Road and strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Public Works to manage road maintenance by Afghan contractors

Accomplishments:

- Constructed or refurbished 57 wells to increase access to clean water, improving the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Upgraded the 21 km Mest Khel-Ghundakay Road into an engineered gravel road
- Improved the Sharan Airstrip, more effectively connecting residents to the country and region
- Constructed the Ghazni to Sharan Road, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions



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- Supported displaced people returning to the province by providing temporary shelter and reconstructing houses

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

Current Activities:

- Support events, such as open houses, sports events, district governor tours and district educational tours designed to connect district officials with their constituents
- Support local agricultural enterprises through the provision of training and materials in specific disciplines, such as bee-keeping and slaughterhouse management
- Increase the capacity of the Barmel District government to deliver services to its constituents
- Support community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)
- Conduct vocational training for vulnerable groups, such as women, refugees and the physically disabled in Sharana and Khair Kot Castle districts
- Provide expertise on district schools and what interventions are needed to support the Department of Education
- Support a comprehensive package of community-selected and implemented stabilization grants to include irrigation and road rehabilitation in Waza Khwa and Khair Kot Castle districts
- Deliver small business, shelter, and assistance kits to war-affected families
- Support events such as stability jirgas and agricultural fairs designed to connect the Afghan government, particularly district officials, with their constituents

Accomplishments:

- Increased the ability of 60 women to provide for themselves and their families through vocational training in tailoring
- Conducted a renewable energy assessment of key institutions
- Supported the refurbishment of dormitory space for district officials in Sharana District, thus encouraging more frequent interaction with the provincial government
- Constructed the border control checkpoint in Barmel on the Afghan-Pakistan border to improve regional security and boost revenue for the customs department
- Improved government service delivery through the placement of technical advisors in six key government offices, providing mentoring, on-the-job training and capacity-building skills
- Helped 6,700 people through community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment
- Provided capacity-building, technical training, and mentoring for the governor's office, Provincial Development Council, and provincial ministries
- Facilitated the formation of agricultural shuras (councils) to connect the Directorate of Agriculture with communities to discuss common problems and find community-supported solutions



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- Rehabilitated and delivered livelihoods support assistance kits to 43 war-affected families in the village of Ibrahim Kariz